

Military Exercise a Success

Contact: S. Jensen

On Tuesday, May 22, 2018, Emergency Services Officer Shanna Jensen participated in the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC), Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms Functional Exercise (FE) at the Installation’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the San Bernardino County’s Office of Emergency Services Military Liaison. Shanna’s role as the liaison is to foster partnerships and continued collaboration in emergency planning with our military partners. The background for the 2018 FE was a continuation of MCAGCC 2017 Earthquake FE that involved a 7.4 magnitude earthquake

that caused significant damage to the installation. This year’s exercise focused on the recovery phase of operations. The FE occurred at the MAGTFTC, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms EOC and lasted for approximately eight (8) hours. Other participants from adjoining jurisdictions and agencies attended to exercise relief scenarios and questions that could potentially arise during a real-world incident. Each task performed was associated with standards/performance measures based on the installation’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) exercise design. The following exercise concepts and associated tasks were the main focus of this FE:

- An earthquake scenario will provide EOC personnel the opportunity to exercise roles during a disaster while stretching assets and exercising the plans, policies, and procedures of the installation.

- This event also allowed personnel assigned to the EOC an opportunity to walk through their roles and responsibilities as an EOC member.

The installation focused on the following objectives during this exercise:

- Validate MAGTFTC, MCAGCC’s EOP.
- Exercise EOC roles and procedures in response to and recovery from a devastating earthquake to include information flow processes.
- Exercise full EOC capability and operability.
- Exercise the establishment and operations of an Emergency Family Assistance Center (EFAC).
- Exercise the process of providing Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA).

Grants Update

Contact: M. Antonucci, E. Segura, T. Sutura, D. Mendez-Cantu

FY2016 Homeland Security Grant Program Grant is ongoing. Only expenditures for approved projects will be reimbursed. Modification requests should be submitted to the Grants Unit ASAP if needed. Turn in reimbursement requests as soon as they are finalized to avoid confusion with overlapping grants. Please be sure not to deploy equipment prior to verification and tagging by the Grants Unit. The second milestone was 07/31/18, meaning projects should be 75% complete, and the **final milestone is 3/31/19 and the project must be 100% complete.**

FY2017 Homeland Security Grant Program Subrecipients have been notified of their approved projects, which may have varied from the proposed projects submitted. If your project has a hold trigger such as an EHP, EOC, FBI, sole source request(s) or your project includes an item(s) on the Controlled Equipment List, additional approval is required prior to proceeding. Modifications should be submitted ASAP if needed so the Grants Unit may plan/ process accordingly.

FY2018 Homeland Security Grant Program The preliminary application is pending with the state. The grant amount remains unknown. County OES will communicate with the subrecipients as soon as more details are available.

FY2018 Emergency Management Performance Grant The FY18 EMPG State allocation has been approved by FEMA and the County’s allocation was received. County Fire is in the process of finalizing the allocation matrix for

jurisdictions which is roughly the same as last year’s allocations. The State NOFO has not been released but it is expected in September 2018. Subrecipients should be prepared to submit projects and project costs prior to September. Call for project documents will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Jurisdictions who receive funding for personnel costs must have the ability to track grant hours within their payroll system, and functional timecards need to be included in reimbursement packets as supporting documentation. The Code of Federal Regulations state that “Charges to Federal awards for salaries and wages must be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed. These records must: (ii) Be incorporated into the official records of the non-Federal entity.” See C.F.R. 200.430 (i) (8). Your payroll system should have the ability to establish an activity code for grant hours that grant funded personnel can use when working on grant related activities.



OES Quarterly Report



San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services

Valley Fire Sparks Concern

Contact: M. Wagner

The Valley Fire started July 6, 2018, at about 1:15 p.m. east of State Route 38 (SR38) and Valley of the Falls just down canyon from the community of Forest Falls. The fire origin was in the area of Monkeyface Falls. The area is very steep with heavy fuel load and spread was rapid with the fire moving uphill towards Forest Falls and the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area.

The Community of Forest Falls was placed under mandatory evacuation orders by 4:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon of July 6. Residents returned to Forest Falls on Monday July 9, 2018.

The San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services activated the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to Level 3 in support of the Valley Fire on Friday, July 6, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. The Emergency Operations Center deactivated on Monday, July 9, 2018.

The Valley Fire Incident was in Unified Command with the USFS, County Fire, CalFire, and County Sheriff. Responders included the San Bernardino National Forest, San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino County Sheriff, CalFire, CalTrans, San Bernardino County Animal Control, San Bernardino County Department of Public Works, and the American Red Cross. Southern California Inci-

dent Management Team 2 managed the fire during the height of the Valley Fire. San Bernardino County Fire Emergency Communications Service (ECS) and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) were activated and provided incident support where requested. David Davis, Emergency Services Officer, was assigned as the County OES Agency Repre-



Valley Fire

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sentative to the Incident Command Post and communicated information between the ICP and the County EOC.

Due to the fire SR38 was closed between Sugar Pine Circle and Bryant Street. The highway was reopened on Tuesday, July 19, 2018.

During the fire a flash flood occurred on Saturday, July 7, that caused a rock and mudslide that closed SR38 just uphill from the intersection of SR38 and Valley of the Falls Drive. The mud and debris were cleared from the highway by CalTrans crews.

Per San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control (SBCACC) a total of 16 animals were evacuated: 13 dogs, two cats, and one horse.

The fire has burned about 1350 acres. Contingency lines have been combined with existing fuels reduction projects to provide added security for communities. Approximately 70% of the fire's perimeter is steep, rocky, and inaccessible to firefighters. Aircraft were utilized to accomplish full suppression in these areas without direct line. The area is partially within the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area.

Closures include the wilderness area and many trails within and adjacent to the fire.



Preparing Our Own

Guest Author: Sherri Misener, SBCo. Human Services

Contact: M. A. Ramirez

ees loved it and have clamored for more, prompting HSESU to collaboratively work with County OES to provide three training opportunities per year since the initial training. HSESU also conducted their first CERT refresher training in the fall of 2017 and, especially based on the employee's love for the program, desire to take the training to new levels. The following quotes probably



Sherri Misener, HS Emergency Services Supervisor, HS, Administrative Support

In the fall of 2015, the San Bernardino County Human Services Emergency Services Unit (HSESU), in conjunction with the County Office of Emergency Services (OES), offered the very first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic training for HS County employees. It was a hit! The employ-

best describe the general attitude of HS employees towards the training, "I have been with the county for almost 15 years and this was hands down the best training I have ever attended;" "This was definitely 5 star (of 5 possible) in every way! I'm happy to be included as part of our own HS CERT team and

Ready Upland

Contact: M. A. Ramirez



The San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (OES) provides a full-time Emergency Manager to coordinate the City of Upland's Emergency Management Program. Over the past year, the program has had new life breathed into it as the City's Emergency Operations plan is being revised, preparedness outreach has increased and the City's Emergency Op-

erations Center is being updated. In addition to these efforts, city staff received the Introduction to Incident Management course. Staff learned important concepts like how the Incident Command System works and their role as a part of the National Incident Management System and the Standardized Emergency Management System. As a part of the training, employees were reminded of the important part they play in the city's response and recovery efforts as Disaster Service Workers. Additionally they learned important steps they could take to make them-



HS staff exercising skills

I'm looking forward to becoming a valuable, productive, and effective member... thanks once again for the opportunity!"

As of March of 2018, HS has conducted eight CERT Basic training classes (with two more planned for the fall/winter) and have trained 220 employees. This is wonderful for not only HS as a whole, but for the morale and attitude of HS employees as well, especially should a disaster strike. It is the goal of HSESU to empower HS employees to be prepared and be able to safely assist in a disaster situation; CERT training provides them with the skills and knowledge needed to do so. Kudos to County OES for their assistance in providing this invaluable training. May the partnership continue to flourish in the years to come!



M. A. Ramirez training Upland staff

selves and their better prepared for a disaster. OES is proud to collaborate with the city to make "a ReadyUpland for all."

OA CERT Conducts Full Scale Exercise

Contact: J. Ferdon

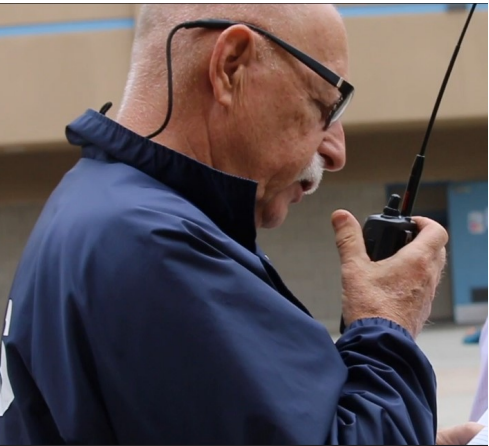
On May 12, 2018, 85 CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members from around the San Bernardino County Operational Area (OA), along with over 20 controller/evaluators from County Fire, County OES, and both incorporated and unincorporated jurisdictions, participated in a morning of advanced training followed by a full scale exercise in the afternoon.



CERT members practice cribbing

Training provided included CERT Leadership, Command and Control, Cribbing, Search and Rescue Refresher, Radio Communications, and DHS’s Stop the Bleed Program. The City of Yucaipa hosted the exercise at Yucaipa High School. The school’s Law and Public Safety Program (LPS) provided 44 victim-actors and 10 adult victim actors to assist the CERT personnel with the exercise. CERT members were presented with a 7.8 magnitude earthquake scenario on a normal Saturday afternoon at Yucaipa High School

with approximately 100 high school students attending “Saturday School” to make up for missed school days. The scenario included a strong shaking lasting approximately 45 seconds. At its conclusion, the exercise was hailed a success by all participants in that it provided excellent opportunities to integrate teams from around the OA and highlight additional future training opportunities.



Bob Kindron participates in exercise

Let’s Get Ready to ShakeOut!

Contact: S. Jensen

The San Bernardino County Fire, Office of Emergency Services (County OES) believes it’s essential for every San Bernardino County resident, employee, and visitor to know what to do before, during and after an earthquake! One of San Bernardino County’s most recognizable landmarks, the San Bernardino Mountains, was formed by the

San Andreas Fault. The San Andreas today has the potential to produce a significant earthquake that would not only affect our county but the entire Southern California Region. Knowing what to do when the earth begins to move could potentially prevent severe injuries, or worse. That is why the county participates in the annual Great ShakeOut earthquake drill every third Thursday of October.

This year’s ShakeOut will take place at “10:18 a.m. on October 18, 2018.” Millions of people across California will participate in the largest earthquake drill ever. Why? Earthquakes can happen anywhere you work, live, or travel, which is why everyone, everywhere should know how to protect themselves should an earthquake occur. Register at www.sbcfire.org/ShakeOut to practice and improve your level of earthquake safety.

Everyone everywhere can participate! Individuals, families, businesses, schools, government agencies, and organizations are all invited to join us at 10:18 a.m. at 10/18.



Experience NEMAA

Guest Author: Joseph Ramos, Town of Apple Valley

Contact: M. A. Ramirez

The National Emergency Management Advanced Academy (NEMAA) was an amazing experience for not only myself but I’m sure for the other 44 graduates. We started our four-week academy back in December and concluded with our graduation at Universal Studios on July 20, 2018. NEMAA brought together emergency management professionals within government, higher education, medical, military, law enforcement, fire and private sector fields. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute (EMI) course was hosted by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the City of Burbank Fire Department. Instruction reinforced the qualities needed to lead emergency management programs, provide relevant management theories and concepts, and gain the knowledge needed to lead emergency management into the future.

Each student was responsible for the creation of a research paper that provided the participants with the opportunity to focus on an area of concern within our day-to-day re-



SBCOA NEMAA Graduates, Raymond Cheung, City of Ontario; Joseph Ramos, Town of Apple Valley; Michael A. Ramirez, County of San Bernardino

sponsibilities. Although the paper became our most dreaded assignment, ultimately it ended up becoming our most rewarding experience. One of the highlights of the academy was being able to hear each student present their paper and discuss their own ideas and vision on how to improve the field of emergency management. Although the commitment of a four-week academy within six months seems like a daunting task, the opportunities for networking, collaboration, professional growth and friendship are irreplaceable and will be valuable as we each continue our emergency management journey.

If you have a desire to further your knowledge within emergency management and learn from other like-minded professionals then I urge you to consider the next NEMAA academy, which will be hosted in Riverside in 2019. Feel free to inquire further about the program with your newest NEMAA alum’s, Michael Ramirez of the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services, Ray Cheung of the City of Ontario, and myself, Joseph Ramos of the Town of Apple Valley.

EEMC Course

Contact: Z. Mullennix

Using FY16 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds, the County Office of Emergency Services (OES) hosted the CSTI Essentials of Emergency Management Concepts - All Hazards course (EEMC) the week of July 30th. This replaces the Introduction to Emergency Management – Earthquake class.

Using a variety of hazard scenarios and employing a series of progressive exercises, this course introduced participants to key emergency management principles and practices building participants’ capabilities to operate effectively within a local, regional or state Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Course content included California’s SEMS Introductory Course and Essential EOC Section/ Position Training, providing individual certification toward California’s new EOC credentialing program.

Thirty-two students from multiple county departments, tribal and southern region counties attended. The training was customized to San Bernardino County to include county specific resources, infrastructure, jurisdictions and hazards. Day four consisted of a 6-hour functional exercise on the Valley EOC floor. The exercise included real time news casts and over 200 injects. County OES is working to bring an additional delivery to the County in early 2019.

Cedar Springs Dam Functional Exercise Went Swimmingly

Contact: D. Davis and M. Wagner

On July 19, 2018, Emergency Services Officers David Davis and Miles Wagner of the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services participated as evaluators in the Southern Field Division Cedar Springs Dam Functional Exercise held at the Southern Field Division Headquarters and EOC in Pearblossom, Calif. The exercise is a significant cooperative effort between the California Department of Water Resources and stakeholders, including the San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services.



Exercise play

The drill was the culmination of about a year-long series of meetings, tours, and tabletop exercises. The drill takes place every four years under the Federal Energy Regulating Commission (FERC) for the stress testing of the dam’s Emergency Action Plan. The test, drills and exercises are required for the hydropower relicensing to provide power and operate.

The drill started at about 0600 with notifications of an event at the Cedar Springs Dam,

an aftershock to a very large earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 that happened nine days earlier with the epicenter directly under the dam at Cedar Springs and the power generation plant.

The scenario had a small crack developing on the dam with a progressively increasing water flow over the next three days (each day was compressed into a two-hour period).

Over time as the water flow increased the leak began to carry sedimentation. Eventually,

ly, in the scenario, the dam failed and all water in the dam was released. Fortunately, downstream of the Cedar Springs Dam is the Mojave Forks Dam, a flood control dam build to prevent flooding along the Mojave River. This dam’s capacity is higher than the Cedar Springs Dam so a gradual release of water downstream prevents massive flooding. The scenario is highly unlikely but FERC exercises require that the dam fail.

The exercise progressed slowly and steadily giving more challenges to staff at the site and the EOC, stepping up the pace with more and more injects that were designed to see if the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) would be followed and utilized and also to ensure that the plan would be able to handle the series of events unfolding.

The staff and crews at the Pearblossom facility and Cedar Springs Dam really stepped up and handled all that was thrown at them despite this being an exercise that only occurs every four years. They were cool, calm and collected and worked and solved the problems even up to a complete dam failure in the exercise. Notifications were made following the direction of the EAP and there was a very effective Unified Command approach to the problem under a large amount of pressure and scrutiny. Well done!



Cedar Springs Dam

Auxiliary Comms Services (ACS)

Guest Author: David Sage, Tri-City ACS

Contact: M. A. Ramirez



Originally founded as part of the United States Civil Defense Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) well over twenty years ago, your local Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) continues to adapt to and embrace changes in political structure and technology to provide one of the best local event, disaster or emergency communications services available to your community.

Organizationally, the original RACES organization aligned through the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District for support. However, as part of the Civil Defense service, the order to activate any RACES unit requires a presidential directive. To better support the communities of Rancho Cucamonga and Upland, the original RACES unit restructured into an auxiliary communications group through an affiliation with the San Bernardino County Fire Department’s Emergency Communications Service (ECS). Activation of the unit could now occur at the state or county level. Membership in the local group required membership in ECS. This new structure standardized training and upgraded the level of service available to the local communities through the county’s mutual aid agreements with other communications groups within the county.

In 2013, the unit once again reorganized into the Auxiliary Communications Service. While retaining an affiliation with the county’s ECS, membership in the ACS no longer required county membership. Through agreements with the Montclair, Upland and Rancho Cucamonga fire departments, the ACS became the primary communications response unit in those communities providing radio support to local events as well as supplementing each fire department’s disaster or emergency communications response capabilities. The membership age dropped from 21 years old to 16 years old (with parental or guardian written permission) and training standards were adopted that could be taught at the local level. The most beneficial result of this change allowed for unit deployment at the local government level.

ACS is an important layer of redundant communications for the City of Upland’s Emergency Management Program. With the ongoing development of the Emergency Management Program in Upland, ACS meetings have returned to the city as well as the first Amateur Radio Technician Level Class conducted by ACS in the city in several years. Additionally, ACS hosted a 24-hour Field Day on June 23 at San Antonio Park in the City of Upland.

As changes within the Montclair and Upland Fire Departments occurred, the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District assumed oversight of the unit with respect to background checks, formal standardization of training, volunteer disaster service worker agreements and other personnel-related activities which significantly facilitate the acceptance and deployment of ACS members into local emergency operations centers, staging areas or other designated areas to establish, sustain and maintain communications plans on-demand and as-required by the host agency.

Technologically, the ACS depends on volunteers willing to use their equipment “in the field” when necessary. Some basic high frequency, very high frequency and ultra-high frequency radio equipment has been dedi-



Bob Kindron, ACS Instructor

cated for ACS use through local government agreement but by far, the individual’s personal equipment supplements the unit in areas exceeding basic radio communications. Advances in technology allow our members to transmit and receive data on amateur radio frequencies in a wide variety of formats which include slow scan video images, e-mails, text messages and GPS locations. Amateur radio operators can establish mesh networks via radio, essentially establishing a local area network linking computers in real-time with each other. Additionally, by using amateur radio equipment and resources, the ACS has the capability of establishing a local Internet link without the need for an Internet service provider. As technology advances, so do the capabilities of the ACS volunteers.

The Auxiliary Communications Service always seeks motivated individuals willing to obtain and retain an FCC-issued amateur radio operator’s license. With three entry-level classes held each year (and one upgrade class), the ACS will work with you to keep you updated and trained, but only you can decide to participate. We encourage anyone to attend our general membership meetings and meet the radio operators who serve in your community. Contact David Sage at cro@tricityacs.net for more information.